

**TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE
HOUSING COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 17, 2009**

I would like to write in support of Proposed HB 5240, which would amend section 8-30g of the general statutes

The proposal to include "accessory apartments" in the definition of affordable housing has great merit for the towns. The affordable housing criteria of 10% of the total housing supply will be easier to meet. This is not a drawback for anyone because of several factors:

1. The towns can take a more measured approach to new construction of affordable housing. Such a move is very welcome in this economic environment where the towns and state governments are facing a precipitous fall in revenues.
2. New construction of affordable housing units - with brick, mortar and space requirements - have a major impact on a town's infrastructure. By including accessory housing in the definition of affordable housing such pressures will be reduced. This will enable towns to preserve the character of neighborhoods, so important to many residents.
4. Senior citizens coping with rising costs are more likely to create an accessory apartment on their property. This is likely to encourage seniors to remain in their homes instead of having to move elsewhere.

For these reasons I urge you to support this proposal

Yours sincerely,

Stu Reider
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